

MA THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Public Information Department, 11150 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340

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PRESS RELEASE

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1988 MAY SHOW

The Cleveland Museum of Art's 69th annual juried May Show of works by artists and craftsmen of Ohio's Western Reserve will be on view at the Museum from May 25 through July 17, 1988. The 1988 May Show contains 211 works by 194 artists, selected from 2,701 entries submitted by 1,478 entrants. Ten artists received special awards; works by twenty-one others were cited for special mention. As Tom Hinson, the Museum's curator of contemporary art, points out in the May issue of the Museum's Bulletin, which serves as the catalogue for the May Show, "It is an exceptionally diverse exhibition, one of the few juried art shows organized by a major institution that is open to all media, offering the viewer a sampling of the wide range of work created by Northeast Ohio's vital visual arts community."

In paintings and graphics, the trend continues toward realism and the depiction of the human figure. Imagery is often intensely personal and enigmatic, however, and recognizable subjects are often juxtaposed in surrealistic ways. Sculpture and crafts, especially ceramics and textiles, are bold and imaginative in design and execution; graphics are strong, with an almost equal representation of drawings and prints. Photographs, mainly in black and white, include evocative studies of landscape and architectural forms as well as commentaries on society, politics, and the environment.

This year the \$1000 award for painting was given to Anthony Schepis, professor of painting and drawing at The Cleveland Institute of Art. Schepis is known for his carefully composed and precisely rendered still life

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paintings of boxes and other objects. In his award-winning work, Altered States V, Schepis uses a folding screen as a backdrop for an intriguing arrangement of unrelated objects, including a spinning top and a cycling helmet, painted in rich, low-keyed colors with strong light and shadow patterns. A graduate of The Cleveland Institute of Art with an M.A. from Kent State University, Schepis has exhibited his work in a number of May Shows, receiving a special mention for painting in the 1978 exhibition.

The impressive quality of the sculpture category, which saw a substantial increase in entries this year, compelled the jurors to split the \$1000 sculpture award between two artists. Brinsley Tyrrell, professor of sculpture in the School of Art at Kent State University, received \$500 for The Fourth Sentinel, a seven-foot-high totem-like structure of stacked fiberglass forms of varying shape, texture, and color that seem to be precariously balanced but are held together by a hidden central support. Copper and iron powders mixed with the fiberglass give the forms the appearance of stone, bronze, and iron. Tyrrell, who lives in Ravenna, was born and educated in England. He has exhibited his sculptures and drawings in May Shows since 1971.

The other half of the sculpture award went to Michèle Montgomery, a native of Chardon who now works in San Francisco. Her prize-winning entry, entitled Inside Out, is an arresting and complex work. Six oversize steel garment hangers are hung with fabrics that were dipped in Hydrocal, draped over the artist's body, where they were allowed to harden, and finally painted, giving the fabric the look of bronze. In front of this assemblage sits a bronze replica of a sewing machine on a cedar table. Open to several interpretations, the work, according to the artist, comments on the place of clothing in our culture while recalling the draped figures of classical

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sculpture. Montgomery, a graduate of the College of Wooster, received her M.F.A. from the Cranbrook Academy of Art. This is the first time she has exhibited in the May Show.

As in many previous May Shows, the \$1000 award for graphics was split between a work in that category and a photograph. Gingr Vaughan, an instructor in the School of Art at Kent State University, received half of the cash award for a one-foot-high, nine-foot-long monoprint, on three sheets of paper, entitled Flying Birds III, No. 1. Stretching the length of the horizontal composition, an undulating line of birds in varying stages of flight are superimposed over an ambiguously rendered landscape of sky, water, and trees. Vaughan, who lives in Rootstown, Ohio, received her M.F.A. in printmaking from Kent State University. Her entry in last year's May Show, a print of birds on wires, received a special mention for graphics.

Cleveland Heights free-lance photographer Janet Century was awarded \$500 for a surrealistic black and white photograph taken at Zabriskie Point in the California desert. The image, entitled Reverie, depicts a dog sleeping beside a park bench in a vast and empty mountain landscape that is compressed under a dense layer of clouds. The photograph is notable for its wide tonal range, from the rich black bench to the bleached white ground. Century, who photographs a wide range of subjects, including people captured in decisive moments, exhibited a color photograph in the 1983 May Show.

Honors also went to another remarkable black and white photograph, Andrew Borowiec's sharply focused and richly detailed view of a decaying residential street near an industrial plant in Mingo Junction, Ohio. The print, cited by jurors for special mention, was also selected by the Museum's staff to receive the Herbert Ascherman, Jr. May Show Purchase Award for Photography. Assistant

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professor of photography at the University of Akron, Borowiec has for the past few years been photographing the impact of industry and economic change on the landscape of small Midwestern towns. Borowiec, who received his M.F.A. in photography from Yale University, has exhibited his photographs in two previous May Shows, winning a special mention in 1987.

Recipient of the \$1000 award for crafts was Lizzy Yoo, visiting artist at Kent State University, and associate professor of art in jewelry and metal-smithing at the Seoul National University in Korea. Her sterling silver teapot and stand, which she calls Looking at a Hill, and bud vase, Leaning on the Wind, are striking sculptural forms inspired by the landscapes of traditional Asian art as well as Scandinavian designs. Both works are decorated with thin inlays of gold and nickel silver representing reeds or grasses and embellished with raised reliefs, the teapot with a small bird in flight, and the vase with a flower and a bud.

As happened last year, the Robert Mann \$1000 award for ceramics was divided between two artists. Richard Schneider, associate professor of art at Cleveland State University, received half of the prize for a large, boldly glazed terra-cotta sculptural form decorated with geometric designs which he has entitled Trident, after the three-pronged shape which is the work's principal motif. Schneider's interest in geometric patterns, which are stenciled onto his terra-cotta forms before they are glazed and fired, stems from his study of ancient Greek and American Indian pottery. Schneider received his undergraduate degree from the University of Toledo and his M.A. in ceramics from Bowling Green University. He has exhibited his works in almost every May Show since 1972, when he received the \$1000 sculpture award. A terra-cotta work entered in 1983 received a special mention for crafts.

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Cleveland native Neil Patterson, now a fellow at the Penland School of Crafts in Penland, North Carolina, received \$500 for two unusually shaped and textured stoneware bottles. Assembled from pieces of clay that were formed on a wheel, both vessels are embellished with parallel rows of ridges and grooves that echo the shapes of the bottles. Patterson graduated from The Cleveland Institute of Art in 1986 with a major in ceramics. This is the first time he has exhibited in the May Show.

Euclid resident Brock Winans, a furniture maker completing his fourth year in the industrial design program at The Cleveland Institute of Art, received the Horace E. Potter Memorial Award for Excellence in Craftsmanship for an elegant curly maple and walnut bentwood chair. The gentle curve of the laminated wood which forms the back of the chair is echoed in its curving front legs and undulating seat. The walnut dowel rods which hold the various sections together and the walnuts edges of seat, back, and legs provide striking decorative accents.

Special mentions were given to the following artists:

Painting:	Mary Lou Ferbert, Lawrence Krause, Ken Nevadomi, Edward A. Raffel, Jim Rottmayer, D. John Russo
Sculpture:	Steven P. Bradford, Thomas J. Golya/Stork, Paul O'Keeffe
Graphics:	Debrah Butler, Charles B. Hamilton, T. P. Speer, Julie A. Wray
Photography:	Andrew Borowiec, Steve Cagan, Patrick K. Corrigan, Gina M. Figliola, Jill Goodman, Gregory Todd Moore
Crafts:	Karin Bartimole, Mary Jo Bole, Jack Ink

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Works in the May Show were selected by members of the Museum's professional staff and two guest jurors. Lowery S. Sims, associate curator of twentieth-century art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, served on the juries for painting, graphics, photography, and sculpture. Michael W. Monroe, curator in charge of the Renwick Gallery of the National Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C., assisted in judging craft entries.

Gallery talks on the May Show will be given at 1:30 pm on opening day, Wednesday, May 25, and Sunday, May 29, and again on Wednesday, July 6, and Sunday, July 10. A slide tape on the 1988 May Show will run continuously in the Museum's audio-visual center while the exhibition is on view.

The 1988 May Show is assisted by a grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

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For additional information, photographs, or color slides, please contact the Public Information Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland OH 44106; 216/421-7340.